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EXHIBIT 4

DATE 2/12/09

HB 445

Richard Thieltges

From: "james barngrover" <javajim@bresnan.net>
To: "Richard Thieltgos" <medicinewolf@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 11:45 AM
Subject: Fw: Montana's Farmer Protection Bill (HB 445)

Bob Quin

Montana Flour & Grains
P.O. Box 517 * 2502 Chouteau St.
Fort Benton * Montana * 59442
(406) 622-5436 * Fax (406) 622-5439

February 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to voice my support for House bill 445. I believe in necessity of intellectual property rights for those who create and invent in our society. In the case of this bill seed patents have been granted to companies breeding or developing new varieties of plants.

The Montana food industry requires a healthy farmer base. Our company mills specialty ingredients that require specialized crops. While these demand effort to grow they also command a premium price. Demanding customers need them to be pure, free of unwanted contaminants. A high priced crop with a little comingling of an unwanted seed could cause a farmer a large financial loss. To be sued for patent infringement, on top of losing a crop due to contamination could easily cause a farmer to lose their farm.

Those who violate these patents ought to be held accountable before the law. Those persons accused of willful violations differ, in my mind, from those who unknowingly or unintentionally use patented plants or seeds.

This bill allows for an independent third party to be present when a patent holder tests for presence of their patented plants and that is necessary and wise. Equally important is the ability of any party accused in court of violating a patent to be able to face their accusers in local courts without having to travel across the country. Many local lawyers cannot defend a farmer in another state and the legal fees and time to consult with out of state counsel make the case brutally expensive before the facts are ever even heard in a courtroom.

For these reasons I support HB 445.

Andre C. Giles
President

-----Original Message-----

From: Kristina Hubbard [mailto:kristina.hubbard@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 12:48 PM
To: info@montanafLOUR.com
Cc: jim barngrover
Subject: Montana's Farmer Protection Bill (HB 445)

2/12/2009

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Andre C. Giles
President

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Dear Chairman and Members of the Montana House Agriculture Committee:

I am a farmer in Indiana and in July of 2004 two men appeared at my home unannounced. Their first question was, "We would like to ask you a few questions about your farming operation." They presented me with a card "McDowell & Associates, LTD." On the card it stated "Providing Actionable information and real life solutions." They did not tell me they were investigators from Monsanto or subcontracted by same. I did not answer all of their questions.

On November 19, 2004 I received a letter from Monsanto's attorney giving me 7 days to send my production records to him.

I kept wondering, why are they after me? I do not plant or use any of their products and have not signed a Monsanto Technology agreement (seed contract). Thankfully Indiana has a seed contract law in force and it states that my trial would be in my Federal Court district, and I would not have to go to St. Louis, Monsanto's home state. I hired a criminal attorney within walking distance of the Federal Court House here in Fort Wayne.

We sent letters giving some information and wanting to know why they pursued me. Finally Monsanto's attorney threatened me with an agreement between his client "Monsanto" & the Indiana Dept of agriculture to search my land. I asked for a copy of said agreement as I knew Indiana did not have a Department of Agriculture at the time. To this day I have not received an answer of any kind from Monsanto.

Farmers deserve to be notified of investigations through an honest process, and farmers who haven't planted patented seed deserve to be protected from unreasonable allegations when wrongly pursued. Most farmers have never seen the inside of a courtroom let alone a Federal Court House. These investigations can be expensive and emotionally stressful.

I hope Montana will follow Indiana and other states, like North Dakota, in passing a bill that provides farmers like me who are mistakenly targeted with seed patent investigations some protections of our rights as farmers. Montana should enact guidelines for patent holders to follow when collecting crop samples and pursuing patent infringement cases. All parties should be aware of the process and kept honest.

Sincerely, David Runyon

3575 West 1150 South
Geneva, IN
46740